

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter is divided into two parts, findings and discussion of translating idiom. The first is finding of error translating idioms and percentage calculation of errors did by the students of English Department in 3rd year Sunan Ampel State Islamic University of Surabaya. And the second is discussion about the result of the study.

4.1 Findings

Based on the data analysis, the researcher discovered some errors in translating idioms. Furthermore, the researcher shows what the errors did by the students of English Department in 3rd year Sunan Ampel Islamic University Surabaya. From the data of 57 students, almost all idioms given to the students there are idiomatic errors happened. The researcher used The Facts on File Encyclopedia of Word and Phrase Origins and mobile dictionary such as Merriam Webster and Idiom & Phrases to look for the meaning of the idioms.

Data 1

Idiom	The answers of the students	The meaning from dictionary
1. <u>The Eager Beavers</u> and Old Mr. Oldkool	1. Berang-berang bersemangat 2. Banyak akal 3. Berang-berang 4. Orang yang sangat	Pekerja Keras

(sometimes in a foolish or silly way). Some say it is a horsey expression, like ‘full of oat’, going back to the days when horses were fed “horse beans” rose for fodder. The saying, however, is a British one from about 1870 and may derive from an earlier phrase, ‘full of bread’. Beans, a high-protein food, certainly should make one lively; in fact, they have long been regarded as an aphrodisiac (Hendrickson 2008:325).

Briefly, 'full of beans' is refers to person who is lively, active and healthy.
In Indonesian, it means *sangat sehat* or *sangat aktif*.

(1) It is so clear that the students translate the idiom word by word which full is *penuh* then beans is *kacang*.

(2) (5) The answers are totally wrong. They do not have any correlation with the context. Perhaps it caused the students are lacks of the vocabularies thus they cannot understand the context of the text.

(3) The students assume that beans is like potential, thus they give meaning that 'full of beans' is full of potential or *berpotensi* in Indonesian.

(4) (7) (8) Here the students think that beans are like knowledge, when person have full of knowledge, he will be smart hence the students translate the idiom as *sangat pintar* and *punya banyak pengetahuan*.

(6) The students make similarity of beans and benefits. Thus they translate the idiom as *penuh manfaat*.

The researcher once asked to the students that they seldom hear the idiom ‘full of beans’, hence they cannot translate the idiom correctly.

Data 4

Idiom	The answers of the students	The meaning from dictionary
4. When Mr. Oldkool told them about a new and fascinating subject, like the apple snail, they were <u>all ears</u>	1. menunggu penjelasan 2. pusat perhatian 3. semuanya mengetahui hal itu 4. mengerjakan dengan teliti 5. merekah dengan seksama	Siap mendengarkan (penuh perhatian)

‘All ears’ means listening attentively. It is hardly modern slang, being at least three centuries old. Its first recorded use in this precise form is by Anthony Trollope in 1865. But over two centuries before this Milton wrote in *Comus* (1634): “I was all ear,/ And took in strains that might create a soul/ Under the ribs of death (Hendrickson 2008:18).

(1) The idiom is adverb form, thus the translation must be adverb form too. The answer of number 1 is verb form, *menunggu penjelasan* and the correct answer is *siap mendengarkan (penuh perhatian)*. Although they have closest meaning, when they have different word classes, it will be wrong and it can influence to whole text.

(3) The students translate the idiom word by word which all is translated as *semua* then ears is translated as listen or knowing that means *mengetahui*.

Data 5

[illegible]

(1) (2) (5) (8) The students assume and know some characteristics of bees as they always produce sound, they always be with their friends or group, they always move fast and hard working in collecting and processing nectar in their nest hence the students translate the idiom as *cerewet, berkelompok, mengerjakan dengan giat atau cepat, and pekerja keras*.

Idiom	The answers from the students	The meaning from dictionary
6. He handed out the test papers and told the boys	1. menetapkan 2. mengeluarkan seluruh	Memikirkan cara untuk menyelesaikan masalah

and girls to <u>put</u> <u>their thinking</u> <u>caps on</u>	kemampuan 3. mendengarkan tanpa nyontek 4. menyerah 5. kerjakan sesuai kemampuanmu 6. mengerjakan dengan logika 7. fokus 8. menjawab dengan yakin 9. kerjakan dengan cermat 10. untuk menjawabnya 11. bukanlah pemikiranmu 12. mulai fokus untuk bekerja 13. menulis jawaban 14. merilekskan diri 15. mengambil pikiran mereka	
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The origin of idiom is that a ‘thinking cap’ was previously known by the appealing name a ‘considering cap’. That term has gone entirely out of use now but was known since at least the early 17th century, as in this example from Robert Armin in *Foole upon foole*, 1605. The earliest record of the term ‘thinking cap’ is from the USA, in the Wisconsin newspaper *The Kenosha Times*, July 1875: “This

(2) (6) (8) (10) (11) (15) From these answers, the researcher is sure that the students open the dictionary to look for the meaning. But because they do not quite understand about the context of the text, they are wrong in choosing the correct words.

“He handed out the test papers and told the boys and girls to put their thinking caps on”

(4) The students focused on word “handed out” then they think that “handed out” is same as “hands up” which the meaning is give up, therefore they translate the idiom as *menyerah*.

[illegible]

Data 7

Idiom	The answers of the students	The meaning from dictionary
7. <u>"Break a leg"</u> he said to the students as he walked back to his desk	1. kuat 2. duduk sopan 3. pantang lelah 4. santai 5. istirahat 6. mengubah suasana	Semoga sukses

'Break a leg' means "good luck" in theatrical circles, probably not because the great Sarah Bernhardt "had but one leg and it would be good luck to be like her". No one is sure, but theory has the expression deriving, possibly through Yiddish, from a German expression meaning "May you break your neck and your leg", for which I can find no satisfactory explanation. It may also have something to do with wishing someone a "big break", that is, good luck leading to success. Or bad luck like breaking a leg may simply be wished because actors, a superstitious lot, have long believed that wishing them good luck guarantees something terrible will happen (Hendrickson 2008:118).

For second language learners, there are some idioms or perhaps a lot of idioms are rarely heard or even never heard before, such as 'break a leg'. There are some errors in translating this idiom. The meaning of idiom 'break a leg' to be "good luck" is there is no correlation. After knowing the origin of idiom 'break a leg', it can be clear why the meaning of 'break a leg' is "good luck" or *semoga*

(3) (4) (5) (7) The students have misunderstood about the idiom. This is part of the idiom in the text,

Perhaps the students focus on word “work”, therefore the students assumed that the idiom is duty or something trouble hence they translate the idiom as *tanpa kesulitan, percaya diri, bersemangat, and menikmati hidup*.

Data 9

[illegible]

“Who would have thought that their hard work would pay off”.

The students have opinion that if persons have been work, they have to have responsibility in their work. Thus the students translate the idiom as *tanggung jawab*.

(2) The students focus on “hard work” in the sentence, therefore they assume that every hard working must be useful thus they translate the idiom as *berguna*.

(3) (4) (8) (9) The students look for meaning of the idiom from the dictionary. But they directly copy and use it without considering that these words are correct or not when they use it in the text.

(5) (10) The meaning of *diganjar* and *membalaskan* is quite similar with *terbayar* in Indonesian. But they have different function. For *diganjar*, the students can use that word to translate ‘pay off’, but it is not quite correct because after word *diganjar* must be followed by more explanation. And for *membalaskan*, the function of the idiom as adverb but *membalaskan* is verb.

(6) (12) The students look at the dictionary that the meaning of the idiom is *pembayaran* or in English is payment or paid. Thus the students translate the idiom as *lunas* or *melunasi*.

(7) The students do not really know about the meaning of the sentence, therefore the students give the nonsense answer which do not have correlation with the sentence and the text.

(11) The students understand or perhaps they look at the dictionary about the meaning of the idiom, but they do not understand enough that the idiom functioned as adverb not verb.

The first, the researcher wants to discuss about how they translate idiom. Some of the students answer that they use dictionary to find the meaning of the idiom. But the students still make mistake in translating idiom. In the dictionary, the meaning of idiom is not directly given in Indonesian, it is still in English. The students are not quite correct in choosing words hence they make mistakes in translating idiom. Such in idiom number 2, 'couch potato', in Indonesian means *pemalas*. But there is the student answer with *mager* or *males gerak*. It is quite similar but different word classes. If *males gerak* combined in the sentence, the meaning will be strange.

[illegible]

Indonesian and the second sentence 'a piece of cake' means very easy or *sangat mudah* in Indonesian.

The second problem is different culture. Language is belonging to culture, and idiom is the part of language. The use and the meaning of idiom is agreed by the people. It can be seen above that each idiom has the origin. For example is, idiom 'break a leg' is used by the English to give spirit to others or to wish good luck, but the Korean, they uses 'hwaiting' to support others,

And the last problem faced by the students in translating idiom is lack of vocabularies or background of knowledge about vocabularies they have is minim. As the example from the text, the students translate 'eager' as *elang* and the fact that the English of *elang* is 'eagle'. 'Eager' and 'eagle' have similar pronunciation, but because background of knowledge about English vocabularies is minim, the students did the error in translating 'eager'. As the students especially in English Department, they have to know a lot of English vocabularies. In this modern era, there are many dictionaries of idioms that can be installed in mobile phone, and sometimes the meaning of the idioms showed in the dictionaries are still in English. If the students know a lot of English vocabularies, it will help the students to translate the idioms correctly.